



Nelson County Emergency Services Council
Nelson County, Virginia

<i>Nelson County Emergency Services Council Standard Operating Guideline</i>	
Subject:	Mayday Operations
Reference Number:	OPS 02-010
Effective Date:	1-Jul-16
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Signature of Approval	Danny Johnson, President

Purpose:

To outline a platform for MAYDAY operations and how they should be operated within an incident.

Definitions:

MAYDAY - Any situation in which a firefighter is unable to exit an immediate danger to life and health (IDLH) atmosphere, or an event in which a person(s) cannot resolve problems within 30 seconds.

RIT- Rapid Intervention Team

IC - Incident Command

Policy:

1. A MAYDAY should be used whenever emergency personnel are operating at a scene and are in immediate need of assistance. A person in need of assistance, or anyone that sees a fellow firefighter that needs assistance may initiate the MAYDAY response. Some examples that shall require a MAYDAY response are:
 - a. Personnel have fallen through a roof or floor.
 - b. Personnel have become entangled and cannot extricate yourself within 30 seconds.
 - c. Personnel have become pinned.
 - d. Personnel have been caught in a flashover.
 - e. Low air alarm from SCBA with no quick egress route.
 - f. SCBA failure.
 - g. Personnel have become lost, disoriented, and/or separated.
 - h. Primary method of egress has been compromised and you cannot find a secondary method within 30 seconds
 - i. Anytime that you or any personnel you see may be in need of a rescue.

2. Declaring a MAYDAY
 - a. The initial response for declaring a MAYDAY is announcing MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY on the primary frequency in which the incident is occurring.
 - b. The Dispatch Center the incident is being operated on shall acknowledge the MAYDAY immediately.
 - i. Dispatch should set off the MAYDAY/Priority Traffic signal and state, "PRIORITY TRAFFIC ONLY". Reference COMM 03-003 (doesn't exist yet)
 - ii. The IC shall ask for and acknowledge the LUNAR report from the individual calling the MAYDAY,
 - iii. Fire operations for confirmed structure fire should be assigned to a non-paging frequency. Reference COMM 03-003 (doesn't exist yet). For example; an incident in Nelson County would operate NCOP and an incident on Wintergreen Property would operate WTG 6 or NCOP.
 - iv. Dispatch should immediately assign an additional ambulance to the incident.
 - c. If no one acknowledges your MAYDAY, or you are unable to operate the microphone on your radio, the emergency call button (orange button) on your Motorola radio can be activated.
 - i. This button will only work while operating on NFR and NCOP.
 - ii. If you are operating on NCOP, the alert will be broadcast on the NFR frequency in the Nelson County Dispatch center.
 - iii. If you are operating on any Wintergreen channel the emergency button will not activate the alert tone at any Dispatch Center. This makes it important to know that you are on Zone 2 on your Motorola radio so you can turn your channel selection all the way to the right to activate your emergency call button.
3. Once the MAYDAY has been acknowledged, you can then give your LUNAR report as follows:
 - a. L: Location (example: Division one charlie/delta corner)
 - b. U: Unit (example: Division one search group)
 - c. N: Name (example: Engine 62 Firefighter John Skillman)
 - d. A: Air (example: currently have 50% air left)
 - e. R: Resources: (example: I need a ladder to extricate from floor and assistance to help me out)
4. After giving your LUNAR report you shall activate your PASS device.
5. Incident Command Response to MAYDAY
 - a. Activate and deploy the RIT.
 - b. Maintain communication with affected personnel in MAYDAY through the primary frequency the incident is being conducted on.

- c. Assure communications on the operating channel are specific to the MAYDAY, priority traffic only.
- d. Assign a leader of RIT that will be the main point of contact for rescue efforts.
- e. Assign RIT to enter through the closest point of entry from where MAYDAY was initiated from, if known.
- f. Have a secondary RIT team available and ready.
- g. Any personnel not directly involved in MAYDAY operations at the emergency scene shall continue with assignments as normal, unless otherwise ordered. A secondary IC should be assigned to carry out the original fire ground operations.
- h. Remember situational awareness is always a necessity, however even more so during a MAYDAY situation. It is not acceptable to cause more MAYDAY situations when conducting the original MAYDAY operation.